



**Special Remarks by**  
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## **The Awarding of the Luana Reyes Leadership Award**

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The history of American Indians and Alaska Natives is a history of great leadership and great challenges that have been overcome. There are challenges that remain which will be overcome by the leaders among us today and those who will come after us.

One such leader, particularly for the Indian Health Service, was Luana L. Reyes. Her leadership was dynamic but also subtle. She quietly mentored and influenced almost a whole generation of relatives, tribal members, and employees. The health of generations to come will benefit from her leadership.

In recognition of her leadership and contributions to the Indian Health Service, I am pleased to announce to you all today, and in the presence of Luana's daughter Kecia and Luana's sister, Teresa Wong, that the Indian Health Service Headquarters Building will be named The Reyes Building, effective January 1, 2002. An appropriate memorial plaque and naming ceremony is being planned for January.

To honor her, her many accomplishments, and her legacy, we have also established the Luana Reyes Leadership Award. She, like many leaders, began from humble beginnings. And, like many others, took advantage of the opportunities available to her – and created opportunities where none existed. And she created opportunities for others and encouraged their development. Particularly to those who displayed personal initiative and courage she would say, “do the right thing and make a positive difference.” Therefore this award is one of encouragement presented to someone not for what they have done, but for what they have demonstrated they are capable of doing – making a positive difference.

The first recipient of the Luana Reyes Leadership Award is someone who reflects the values and characteristics of a future leader. Someone whom we believe can take the path that Luana Reyes did to make a difference. This individual has been with the Indian Health Service since February 1993, and before that spent nearly ten years with a national security organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has involved herself in the activities of the agency and has broadened her base of knowledge through training programs offered by the agency. She has also continued her education, receiving her bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies this past May from American University. I am sure that Luana will agree with our selection of Vee Garcia, from the Acoma Pueblo, as the first recipient of the Luana Reyes Leadership Award.

Congratulations, Vee Garcia.